Shaw Attempting to Block Garrison's TV Appearance

Temporarily Thwarted by Haggerty's Absence

An attorney for conspiracy defendant Clay L. Shaw said he will try again Wednesday to obtain an injunction to stop District Attorney Jim Garrison from appearing on a national television program Saturday night.

F. Irvin Dymond, along with attorney William Wegmann, had sought to obtain the injunction Tuesday, but Criminal District Judge Edward A. Haggerty did not appear in his offices.

Dymond said Tuesday night he expected to see the judge Wednesday.

Shaw's attorneys are attempting to block Garrison from appearing on a half-hour show scheduled for 7 p. m. Saturday on the National Broadcasting Co.

DOESN'T APPEAR

The show was set up after negotiations between Garrison's office and NBC. Its purpose was to allow the DA to answer allegations made on a previous show by the network June 19.

Wegmann and Dymond had arrived at Judge Haggerty's coutroom at 3 p. m. Tuesday, the time the judge was reportedly scheduled to appear. However, Judge Haggerty, who is on vacation and was believed in Biloxi Tuesday, did not show up and the attorneys left the building at 5:30 p. m.

Assistant District Attorneys James L. Alcock and Richard V. Burnes also gave up and left at that time. The Shaw trial is allotted to Judge Haggerty's section of court.

ACCUSES TOWNLEY

Meanwhile, Garrison charged WDSU-TV newsman Richard Townley with bribery and intimidation of the DA's star witness, Perry R. Russo.

Townley was charged with attempting to bribe Russo by offering him:

1. Lodging in a residence in the state of California.
2. Guarantee by National Broadcasting Co. of employment

—Photo by The Times-Picayune.
RICHARD TOWNLEY
Charged by Garrison.

or job security in the state of Louisiana or the state of California.

3. Payment of the fee for the legal services of an attorney for extradition proceedings or in any other proceedings.

4. Protection and immunity from the state of Louisiana and the office of the district attorney for the Parish of Orleans.

5. To serve as an intermediary to influence cross examining trial attorneys not to damage the character and reputation of Perry Raymond Russo.

Townley said Tuesday afternoon that the charges against him were "completely false" and "absurd." The newsman also charged that Garrison abused the powers of his office in his attempt to "silence" criticisms in the news media.

Townley appeared with his attorney at 3:26 p. m. and posted a $7,500 bond.

CRITICAL OF PROBE

Russo held a news conference in Garrison's office June 20, the day after an NBC news special was aired. The program was highly critical of the DA's assassination probe.

At his news conference, Russo said NBC newsman Walter Sheridan had offered to "set me up in California" if he recanted his testimony against Clay L. Shaw and joined the defense.

Russo had testified at a preliminary hearing that he heard Shaw, the late David W. Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald plot the murder of the President.

Shaw, a retired managing director of International Trade Mart, is free on $10,000 bond awaiting trial. Ferrie died five days after Garrison's investigation became public. Oswald, the man the Warren Commission named as Kennedy's lone killer, was shot to death by Jack Ruby in the Dallas police station.

EX-BEAUTY QUEEN

Another charge leveled at Townley Tuesday by Garrison involved Marlene Mancuso, a one-time beauty queen and former wife of fugitive witness Gordon Novel.

Garrison charged June 21 that Townley and Sheridan had attempted to interfere with her testimony as a witness in a burglary conspiracy case against Novel.

He released a sworn statement from Miss Mancuso in which she was quoted as saying Townley told her Garrison would be destroyed.

"He said they were not merely going to discredit the probe," Miss Mancuso's affidavit stated. "He said Garrison would get a jail sentence."

Miss Mancuso said Townley attempted to induce her to appear on the NBC program by telling her a "prior interview" would put her in a "good light" when she was finally subpenaed.

Following is the complete statement of Townley, which he read to newsmen Tuesday afternoon:

"Mr. Garrison's accusations against me, like those against my colleague from NBC, Walter Sheridan, are completely false. I am honored to find myself in the distinguished company of a man like Mr. Sheridan, who has established a national reputation for integrity as an investigator for the McClellan rackets committee, the Justice Department and now NBC news.

'HIGHER STAKES'

"This would be a minor — even a joking — matter if only the freedom of myself or Mr. Sheridan were involved. The stakes, however, are unfortunately much higher than that. The charges against Mr. Sheridan last week, and the charges against me here today are obviously part of the campaign to intimidate reporters everywhere who dare to question the methods of Mr. Garrison, his assistants and his investigators.

"The use of his high office for such low purposes makes a mockery of the justice he is supposed to uphold. Our society has survived other attempts by politicians to silence criticism in the news media.

"Unfortunately, there is a lengthy tradition of that kind in Louisiana politics. I am confident that those who bear the heavy burden of reporting the truth — even if that truth hurts — will not be intimidated by this obvious attempt to silence criticisms.

"I am equally confident that these absurd charges will be proven groundless in any fair, impartial trial."